

## **REMARKS**

Claims 1-48 are pending in the application. Claims 1-48 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

In the Office Action, the Examiner states that the present application contains claims directed to more than one species of the generic invention. Further, the Examiner asserts that Applicants must elect one of the following species:

- I. the species depicted in Fig. 3;
- II. the species depicted in Fig. 4;
- III. the species depicted in Fig. 6;
- IV. the species depicted in Fig. 8; or
- V. the species depicted in Fig. 11.

Applicants elect, with traverse, Species I, i.e., the species depicted in Fig. 3, containing Claims 1-8, for examination on the merits.

Additionally, Applicants respectfully submit that Species II, i.e., the species depicted in Fig. 4, as recited by the Examiner, is still the same general inventive concept as that of Fig. 3. More specifically, Fig. 3 illustrates a microwave SMA connector including *inter alia* a body, a taper, and a step transition. Further, Fig. 4 also illustrates a microwave SMA connector including *inter alia* a body, a taper, and a step transition, but the step transition is multi-step. It is respectfully submitted that the “multi-step transition” illustrated in Fig. 4, still the within the same general inventive concept as the “step transition” illustrated in Fig. 3, and therefore, should be considered within the same species. Additionally, the Examiner is presented with no greater burden in examining Figs. 3 and 4 as a single species. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that in addition to examining Claims 1-8, which are contained within Species I, the Examiner also examine Claims 9-16, which correspond to Fig. 4.

Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 is a generic claim. More specifically, independent Claim 1 reads as follows:

1. (Original) A microwave SMA connector comprising:  
a body acting as ground;  
a central conductor existing in the inner part of said body;  
an insulator with a predetermined dielectric constant existing between said body and said central conductor;  
a first step transition part formed in said body;  
a taper formed in said central conductor in order to fix said central conductor and said insulator and to improve RF characteristics; and  
a second step transition part formed in said central conductor corresponding to said first step transition part to improve RF characteristics.

As shown above, Claim 1 generally recites a body, a central conductor, an insulator, a first step transition part, a taper, and a second step transition part. Further, each of independent Claims 9, 17, 25, and 35 includes at least these recitations, and the inventive concept embodied by the combination thereof. MPEP 804.04(d) recites, “[i]n general, a generic claim should require no material element additional to those required by the species claims, and each of the species claims must require all the limitations of the generic claim.” Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that if independent Claim 1 is allowable, then independent Claims 9, 17, 25, and 35 would also be allowable.

To summarize, applicant elect, with traverse, Species I, asserting that Figs. 3 and 4 recite the same species. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that Claims 1-16 are examined on the merits.

Accordingly, after entry of this Response, all of the claims currently being examined in the present Application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference or personal interview would facilitate resolution of any remaining matters, the Examiner may contact Applicants' attorney at the number given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. M. Owens III', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

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